

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 are rejected. Claims 3, 6-9 and 11-13 are objected to. Claims 1, 2, and 10 are herein canceled. Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12 are herein amended. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hirano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,608).

Claims 3, 6-9 and 11-13 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants so amend the claims.

Applicants herein cancel claims 1, 2 and 10, and amend claims 4 and 5 to depend from allowed claim 3.

Applicants submit that this amendment overcomes the rejections.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.


If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 10/802,809
Group Art Unit: 2824

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Attorney Docket No. 042194

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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